

and the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1853, a bill to extend unemployment insurance; that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; the bill be read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On behalf of the majority leader, in my capacity as a Senator from Minnesota, I object.

Ms. CANTWELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have had a full day of debate on this very important conference report. We have had a number of Senators come to the floor in support of the bill and others who have used this as an opportunity to highlight their opposition to one aspect of the bill or another. The bill finally establishes a comprehensive energy policy, and I do urge my colleagues to look at the bill not just piece by piece but in its entirety. Chairman DOMENICI had to negotiate a whole range of tough issues to put together a bill that requires a very fragile balance, as people even more fully understand this and come to the floor to address different aspects of the bill.

I understand there are some Members who want to preserve their rights on this legislation and who don't want to allow a time limitation. But given the importance of the legislation, at this juncture I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate to the conference report H.R. 6, the energy policy bill to enhance energy conservation and research and development, to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

Bill Frist, Pete Domenici, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Larry Craig, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Michael B. Enzi, Mike DeWine, Christopher Bond, Robert F. Bennett, Trent Lott, Pat Roberts, Jim Bunning, Mitch McConnell, Richard G. Lugar, Norm Coleman, Conrad Burns.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this cloture vote will occur on Friday of this week unless changed by unanimous consent. I hope that cloture is invoked and that the Senate can then act expeditiously to vote adoption of the conference report. Until that time, Mem-

bers will be allowed to come to the floor to express themselves with regard to this legislation. We encourage them to do so.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IN MEMORY OF RUTH BURNETT, MAYOR OF FAIRBANKS AND BELOVED STAFF MEMBER

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, my heart became heavy with sadness as I learned this weekend of the death of my close personal friend Ruth Burnett.

Ruth Burnett was not only a person who gave me great support as the manager of my Fairbanks office, she, her husband Wally Burnett, Sr. and I became friends 50 years ago after my family and I moved to Fairbanks. As the years went by, we kept in touch and from the days of my earliest Senate campaign Ruth and Wally supported me.

Ruth's time as mayor of Fairbanks brought us even closer together and I was delighted when Ruth agreed to be my representative in Fairbanks. She worked tirelessly, without regard to office hours. And she was responsible for bringing to our attention the plight of thousands of interior Alaskans so that my staff and I in Washington, DC could try to help them. She gave me many ideas on where to send Federal money in the interior so that we could do the most good for the most people.

Ruth's whole family pitched in to support her. Wally Burnett, Jr. was a leading member of my Washington, DC staff and the Senate Appropriations staff. Public service has been a hallmark of the Burnett family—a family with a great Alaskan tradition.

Ruth will be dearly missed, but her spirit will live on through the great family she leaves behind and through the many lives she touched.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, in these difficult days when the brave men and women of our Armed Forces face such great dangers in Iraq, we continue to mourn the losses of our heroes who gave their lives in past wars. One of those heroes is Major Richard W. Cooper, Jr., of Holyoke, MA, and his loss is very much in our minds now. Major Cooper was a navigator aboard a B-52 bomber from Westover Air Force Base. He was on one of the final bombing runs in the Vietnam War in 1972, and his plane went down on December 19 of that year. He has been listed as Missing in Action ever since. The Air Force never gave up the search and re-

cently, his remains were discovered and identified through the Joint Task Force Full Accounting operation in Vietnam. Next month, on December 19, at long last, 31 years to the day after his final mission for our country, Major Cooper will be laid to rest with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

Major Cooper earned many decorations for his loyal service to our country, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, and we honor his great courage. Our Nation has often called its sons and daughters into harm's way, and their families bear the scars of battle forever. America owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Major Cooper and his family, and our thoughts and prayers are very much with them now. Massachusetts is proud of him and so is our country.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I seek recognition to honor a Virginia Soldier, CWO Sharon T. Swartworth, who was tragically killed in action in Iraq on Friday, November 7, 2003. I want to express gratitude, on behalf of the Senate, for her service to our Nation. The American people, I am certain, join me in expressing their prayers and compassion to her family.

CWO Sharon T. Swartworth entered the Army shortly before her eighteenth birthday, her father signing the papers allowing her to enlist early. "She traveled around the world before she was assigned to the Pentagon." She understood the importance of her present assignment and despite the personal risk, wanted to serve the United States and the people of Iraq during this critical time.

A warrant officer of the Judge Advocate General's Corps, she served as the primary adviser to the judge advocate general on all matters concerning legal administrators in the Army. She was temporarily in Iraq to process awards for deserving soldiers and to ensure the legal needs of soldiers were being met.

CWO Sharon T. Swartworth leaves behind: her son, William III; her husband, William, a captain of the Naval Medical Corps; and her father, Bernard Mayo.

I, among many friends and colleagues, attended the ceremony at Arlington Cemetery. Her family, who has borne this tragedy with dignity, are brave souls who have sacrificed so much for this Nation. We owe them and the other families who have lost their loved ones a debt of gratitude.

She was an exceptional woman with a bright future and family in front of her. Her father related, "She did it all, and we can be proud of her. She was a soldier." I can not craft a finer eulogy. The Commonwealth of Virginia and the entire Nation shall mourn her loss.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened to learn yesterday of the death in Iraq of another of Vermont's sons. LT Pierre Piche of Starksboro, VT was one of 17 brave young soldiers who died in the crash of two Blackhawk helicopters last Saturday. This brings to five the number of